



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

February 6, 2019

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for meeting with me, and thank you for your commitment to investing in building and renovating public schools. As we discussed and agreed to when we met, I am pleased to invite you to visit Lansdowne High School with me, so you can see firsthand Baltimore County's need for more State investments in school construction.

My predecessor set an aggressive timeline for implementing Baltimore County's Schools For Our Future (SFOF) program. Through SFOF, Baltimore County has opened eight new elementary schools, renovated or added on to seven schools, and air conditioned 59 schools. We have 14 projects left: Four under construction, two approved by the Board of Education, and eight in planning and design. The final eight projects are anticipated to be construction-ready in FY2020.

To meet this aggressive timeline, the prior administration committed to forward funding the State share of many projects. We are proceeding with forward funding the six projects which are underway, but it would be financially ruinous for the County to forward fund the State share of the remaining projects. Absent additional State support, eight projects ready for construction in FY2020 will instead be built over time, beginning in FY2021 and not expected to finish until FY2026.

In addition to needing to finish SFOF, Baltimore County needs to begin planning high school projects. Sage Policy Group recently completed a study which outlined capacity and facilities issues at several of our high schools – including Lansdowne.

My sole legislative priority this year is to secure a State commitment of \$100 million each year for five years for school construction. Your Building Opportunity Act of 2019 will help Baltimore County meet the dual challenge of completing SFOF and moving forward on our high school projects.

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The citizens of Baltimore County are grateful for the State's investment in school construction, and I look forward to hosting you at Lansdowne High School to highlight the need for an increased State commitment to building and renovating schools. I have asked my office to follow up to find the earliest available time for a tour on your calendar.

Thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Olszewski, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John A. Olszewski, Jr.  
Baltimore County Executive

CC: Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore County Senate and House Delegation  
Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore County Council  
Verletta White, Interim Superintendent, BCPS  
Baltimore County Board of Education  
Matthew Clark, Governor's Chief of Staff